Action plan on AIDS awareness

545. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the action plan that Government propose to bring about on AIDS to generate awareness and develop a multi-sectoral approach to check the spread of the disease;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to include HIV/AIDS as a subject in schools and colleges. and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) An inter ministerial group has been set up headed by the Union Minister for Human Resource Development to formulate a multi-sectoral plan of action with various Ministries. The idea is to underline areas wherein HIV prevention education can be mainstreamed within the existing programmes of each Ministry. A working group has also been constituted, comprising representatives from the different Ministries. The Ministries are in the process of finalizing their sectoral plans. It is envisaged that the plans, once finalized by each department/Ministry, will be dovetailed into a multi-sectoral plan.

(b) and (c) HIV Prevention Education is already part of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) national curricular framework, and State units of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) are incorporating the issue at the State level in the text books as per regional requirements.

The issue is also being transacted in a co-curricular approach, through the Population Education Package developed by NCERT for adolescents which has HIV prevention education featured prominently. In addition, NACO through its State AIDS Control Societies conducts the School AIDS Education Programme through its module 'Learning for Life' in a co-curricular manner. The module was designed in a consultative process by experts from NACO, NCERT, UNESCO and UNICEF. The focus is on age and culture appropriate information such that apart from raising awareness on HIV, it also helps young people develop life skills such as resisting peer

pressure, decision making, etc. towards a safe and responsible lifestyle. The activities at the school level include, Training of Teachers and Peer Educators, a nodal teacher-peer educator approach among students, participatory activities like role plays, discussions, debates, competitions, question box and access to referral services, if necessary.

Joint campaign for HIV and TB

546. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest number of people with turberculosis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has also largest number of HIV positive people infected with Tuberculosis;

(c) if so, the Government have any programme for joint campaigning for these deadly diseases; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that HIV patients are more prone to tuberculosis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, India has the highest burden of TB cases in the world.

It is estimated that out of 8.8 million TB cases occurring each year globally, 1.8 million occur in India.

(b) India has an estimated number of 5.1 million HIV infected persons by 2003. It is also estimated that 50-60 per cent of those infected with HIV have the chance of developing TB during their lifetime.

(c) A Joint Action Plan is being implemented in 6 high prevalence States from 2001-2002 and the same has been extended to additional 8 States from 2003-2004.

(d) Yes, Sir, HIV not only increases the susceptibility to infection with the tuberculosis but also increases the rate of progression from latent TB infection to active TB disease.